

EXTRACTS.

HANGING AS A SOURCE OF PLEASURE.

If there are to be believed who, having been more or less hanged, have been executed, and have narrated their experiences, the much-commissioned victim of the law's extreme penalty is not wholly miserable. It would seem that even death "was, for him," has its ameliorating conditions or circumstances. One sufferer in the religious cause in France is said to have "complained" because he was called back to consciousness on an experience of surpassing delight, in which he enjoyed the pleasure of gazing upon the most beautiful scenery. The immediate sensation of pain is momentary; and it would appear not unlikely that, in our anxiety for the soul of the condemned, we are actually increasing their sufferings and diminishing their pleasure. The instantaneous deaths have all the pain and little or none of the pleasure. Slowly induced congestion of the brain may be the least painful, and it is the blood pressure being effectively raised at the centre that causes the beautiful light and charming scenery are enjoyed in the highest perfection. The subject is a grim one, and we are not sure that the new view of hanging experience tends to make the death penalty increasingly deterrent, but it is right that both sides of a question which the late Mr. Whalley has raised in the House of Commons by describing a "man's man" question should be carefully considered at all costs.—*Leaded.*

MESS-ROOM STORIES.

It is a quiet night with the old "Smashers," the "Mashers" are dining with them, and the "Crashers" who are in the same garrison, have some of their most festive members to do honour to the occasion. The "Queen's health" has been drunk, and tongues are generally loosened. It is observed that the "Mashers" and "Smashers" have served together in India, whilst the "Smashers" and "Crashers" have served together at the Cape. It is usually said that men who have been at the Cape are inclined to draw the long bow with regard to their exploits, whilst the exaggerations of those who have been both in the Cape and the Cape pass all bounds. Consequently what between the wine and good fellowship, and a natural desire to promote the conviviality of the meeting, the stories got a little "tall." The conversation, like that of Othello, naturally turned "sailing incidents by flood and field." Campaigning is mentioned, and the colonel observes on modern luxuries—jamaica, tinned meats, turtle soup, and so forth. "Ha," says he, "you young fellows are spoilt nowadays; when I was a subaltern in the Mutiny my bearer brought me an omelette he had made for breakfast, devilish glad to get it, gave him a rap on the back, didn't ask where he got the eggs, ate it, though it tasted odd, asked about eggs, something about 'where were the eggs' eggs, held on to it, however, but I have never eaten an omelette since." A "Smasher" takes up the ball, and relates how he was shooting in China with a favourite pointer, and lost his way, and how he had to spend the night in the jungle, and how he would have been starved if a happy thought had not occurred to him. He cut off his dog's tail, cooked and ate it, and gave the owner his own bones, and so saved both their lives. The conversation shifts to reptiles, and the unpleasantness of cobras in your bedroom is discussed on. A "Crasher" relates how he was lying in his bungalow, half asleep on his chapeau, with a bookish beside him at which he took an occasional peep, and how, putting his hand to the ground, he took up the tube of the book, and put it in his mouth without opening his eyes. "By Jove," says he, "found it wouldn't draw a bit, suddenly felt it wriggle, opened my eyes, and found I had got the tail of a cobra in my mouth, and the remainder of him on the ground, damn angry, with his hood up!" This story creates considerable impression, especially among the youngsters who have never been to India. Hereupon another, not to be outdone, relates how he was chased at Natal by an innumerable two miles; how the animal, like a period of prosperity described by Mr. Gladstone, advanced with leaps and bounds, and that he barely escaped with his life. There is a general agreement that the Cape stations nowadays are bustling places, sport all done for; but the older officers who have known it years ago talk of the days when the shooting was first class, and one relates how he went shooting with John Dunn in the Zululand. He tells us that he had wounded a buffalo, and was apportioning it through scattered bush, when all of a sudden it emerged with a bellow from behind a bush where it had been lying in wait for him, and before he had time to turn and fire, caught him full in the stern and tossed him clean on top of a cactus tree, whose thorns are six inches long and as strong as sharp as packing needles. The Cape here gets a good innings, and one relates how he stalked two pawas, and when very near them, behind a piece of "speckboom," they suddenly rose and flew close over his head. He covered the leading bird, but did not fire as it was so close, and he went on to relate how it suddenly fell down dead at his feet with a funk, and how he promptly shot the other. Pawas introduce ostriches, and another Cape relates how his regiment kept a cock ostrich which used to march in front of the band, and how this interesting bird swallowed everything that it could lay its bill to, and didn't put his head into the canteen window one day and swallow all the bagatelle balls, and was never a penny the worse—must have digested them, because they were never seen again. There is a silence for a while after this, and all take a drink so as to get the bagatelle balls down, the ostrich. The conversation shifts to fishing, and the fishermen who have been rather distinguished by the Cape men, now get a turn. They have been discussing the respective merits of the Shannon and the Tweed, and the size of the salmon in these rivers. "Well," says an ardent disciple of the gentle art, "salmon fishing is all very well, but it's a thing to make fisher-fish. I had some excellent fish at a place on the Mthun, and we were caught anything under 60 lbs. We tried 'em at first with our biggest Shannon flies, and they wouldn't look at them. But one day we saw them picking at the gnats off the water. So what did we do but shoot some of the swallows and put them on our best salmon hooks, and used them as flies—there 'em early with a twenty-foot rod—glorious sport we had, the fish rose to them splendidly." There is a general agreement that there is no place like India now for the British officer for sport and general fun. It has its objections, of course—not weather, early, parasites, insects, and so on. "What run the natives," says a young fellow, "there was one walking about one parade ground, and I had in my hands a large sized kitten which I had picked up near the cook-house, and as the adjutant came near me I clucked the kitten towards it, when, would you believe it, the adjutant gave the cat a step forward and swallowed the kitten whole? Would it have believed it unless I had seen it?" The company, like the Duke of Wellington, reserve the same right to themselves. This is another man's most voracious story,

which is how they kill sharks in the West Indies. They beat a stone red-hot, and then wrap it up in an old blanket and throw it into the sea when sharks are about. Of course a shark swallows it at once, and at first he likes it, but after a while the stone burns through the blanket and begins upon the shark's side. Isn't there a commotion then! At last the stone burns its way clean through the shark's side, and he comes to the surface dead. "Often seen it done," says the company then begins to abuse Mr. Gladstone, who is credited with having given all the good stations for fishing occupied by the British Army—Canada, Costa Rica, and what a quarter Canada! Moose calling, Salmon as thick as minnows in the rivers! But the mosquitoes and flies! A man who has been quartered in Canada takes the opportunity of relating how he was shooting in the Backwoods, and that coming one morning early to a coming down the wide garden path towards him; how the man got leisurely over the stile, and he did not find out until he got close to him that the apparent man was a "grizzly" with a pumpkin under each arm and one in his mouth. With such stories as these, there is something there is a sort of tacit agreement of "You swallow my story and I'll swallow yours." Such are mess-room stories, travellers' tales in fact; for if we take all the officers of a mixed company sitting round a mess table we shall find hardly a place on the globe that someone present has not been to. This practical education of the world in its liberal education, and an advantage such as the officers of no other Army in the world possess.—*Broad Arrow.*

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FOR SALE.

THE GOODWILL AND STOCK IN TRADE of the old and well-known Establishment "The Hongkong Soda Water Manufacturing Co., Hollywood Road, Nos. 12 & 14." Apply to M. A. DE CARVALHO, Hongkong, 16th May, 1887. 1860

GUARANTEED the very best Quality of **ONE DOZEN** or less, White Crystal Glass Bottles, Key Brand. Also **GENEVE** in Stone Bottles and **POMERANIAN BITTERS**. Apply to M. A. DE CARVALHO, Hongkong, 16th May, 1887. 1860

GUNS, RIFLES, REVOLVERS, CARTRIDGES, SHOT, &c. Apply to M. A. DE CARVALHO, Hongkong, 16th May, 1887. 1860

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IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
The Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE to the extent of \$500,000 on any one.

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RATES ON FIRST-CLASS BUILDINGS REDUCED TO 1/2 CENT, WITH NO DEDUCTION FROM THIS DATE.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
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NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.
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GILMAN & Co.,
Agents,
Hongkong, 1st January, 1887. 116

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PUSTAU & Co.,
Agents,
Hongkong, 1st April, 1887. 185

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF 1877 IN HAMBURG.
The Undersigned, Agents of the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS at Current Rates.

PUSTAU & Co.,
Agents,
Hongkong, 18th January, 1887. 117

NOTICE.
THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
Is prepared to ACCEPT FIRST-CLASS RISKS at 1/2 cent per annum, and other INSURANCES at Current Rates.

JAS. B. COUGHTREY,
Agents,
Hongkong, 27th March, 1887. 121

LUDECK FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
The Undersigned having been appointed General Agents for the above Company, are prepared to accept RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

SCHIELE & Co.,
Agents,
Hongkong, 20th May, 1887. 11008

CALEDONIAN FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.
ESTABLISHED 1805.

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ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.,
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Hongkong, January, 1887. 1068

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The Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

SIMMSSEN & Co.,
Agents,
Hongkong, 16th November, 1872. 114

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY AT HAMBURG.
The Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE to the extent of \$50,000, on first-class risks at current rates.

MELOHERS & Co.,
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Hongkong, 27th March, 1876. 112

AMICABLE INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED (OF CALCUTTA).
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Agents,
Hongkong, 27th September, 1886. 117

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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIRST. A.D. 1720.

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Policies at current rates, payable either here, in London, or at the principal Ports of India, China, and Australia.

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Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates.

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Policies issued for sums not exceeding \$25,000, at reduced rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,
Agents,
Hongkong, 26th July, 1872. 115

NOTICE.
QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
The Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS on First-Class Goods at 1/2 per Cent. Net premium per annum.

NORTON & Co., Agents,
Hongkong, 20th May, 1881. 160

PHENIX FIRE OFFICE.
The Undersigned are now prepared to GRANT POLICIES of INSURANCE against FIRE at the following Rates:—

On First-class European Goods, at 1/2 % Net per Annum.
On First-class Goods, at 1/2 % Net per Annum.
On Second-class Goods, at 1/2 % Net per Annum.

DOUGLAS LAFRANK & Co.,
Agents for Phoenix Fire Office,
Hongkong, 5th August, 1881. 115

THE LATEST ADVANCE IN LIFE INSURANCE.
The Undersigned are now prepared to GRANT POLICIES of INSURANCE against FIRE at the following Rates:—

On First-class European Goods, at 1/2 % Net per Annum.
On First-class Goods, at 1/2 % Net per Annum.
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THE NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY'S 5 YEAR DIVIDEND POLICY.
This Policy secures the insured the option of terminating his Insurance at the end of any 5 year period, and receiving for his Policy a sum equal to the value together with his share of accumulated surplus, apportioned as a dividend.

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Prospectus and full particulars may be had on application to **GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,** Acting Agents.

THE MAN OF INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.
CAPITAL (SUBSCRIBED), \$1,000,000.

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The Company GRANTS POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World, payable at any of its Agencies.

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WOO LIN YUEN, Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE.
No. 2, Queen's Road West,
Hongkong, 14th March, 1881. 1555

INTIMATIONS.

AND R. TENNENT'S ALE and DAVID CORSE & SONS' Merchant Navy Navy Boiled Long Flax CANVAS.

ARNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.,
Hongkong, 11th May, 1887. 120

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has always on hand
LARGE STOCKS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF COAL

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AN ALMANAC FOR 1887.
On Paper 10 Cents each, or One Dollar per Dozen. On Cardboard 20 Cents each.

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On Cardboard 10 Cents.

"Daily Press" Office,
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Tee, Cacao, Coffee, India-rubber, Sugar, Palm-oil, Cotton, Cardamom, Kola, Cocoa, Cinamon, Nutmegs, Fibre, Plants, and other Products adapted for Cultivation in the Tropics.

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THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURIST has now an assumed position in its large circulation in Ceylon, Sumatra, and over Central and Northern India, the Straits Settlements, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Northern Australia, Queensland, Central America, Natal, Mauritius, and the West Indies. From all sub-tropical and temperate countries, it receives the approval of the publication and an encouraging measure of support. The English, Indian and Colonial Press have spoken in commendatory terms of the T.A., as also the Editors of Public Gardens from Sir Joseph Hooker, F.R.S. downwards, and so have all planters.

No planter should be without it.

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